

Subpart B—Agency Use of Appropriated Funds for Child Care Costs for Lower Income Employees—What Is the Child Care Subsidy Program Legislation and to Whom Does It Apply?

SOURCE: 68 FR 14128, Mar. 24, 2003, unless otherwise noted.

§ 792.200 What are the benefits of the child care subsidy program law?

Sec. 630 of Public Law 107-67 permits executive agencies to use appropriated funds to improve the affordability of child care for lower income Federal employees. The law applies to child care in the United States and in overseas locations. Employees can benefit from reduced child care rates at Federal child care centers, non-Federal child care centers, and in family child care homes for both full-time and part-time programs such as before and after school programs and daytime summer programs.

§ 792.201 What is the purpose of the child care subsidy program law?

The law is intended to make child care more affordable for lower income Federal employees through the use of agency appropriated funds.

§ 792.202 Do agencies have any notification responsibilities before initiating a child care subsidy program and when may agencies obligate funds for the program?

An agency intending to initiate a child care subsidy program must provide notice to the House Subcommittee on Treasury, Postal Service and General Government Appropriations; to the Senate Subcommittee on Treasury and General Government Appropriations; and to its appropriations subcommittees prior to the obligation of funds. The agency must also notify OPM of its intention. The agency must give notice to these Congressional committees and OPM annually, and funds may be obligated immediately after the agency has made these notifications.

§ 792.203 What materials are available to assist agencies with the process of establishing a child care subsidy program?

OPM has developed guidance that contains samples of memoranda of understanding, marketing tools, child care subsidy program applications, and models for determining subsidy program eligibility. These materials are found in the "Guide for Implementing Child Care Legislation—Public Law 107-67, Sec. 630." The Guide is available on OPM's Web site, <http://www.opm.gov/wrkfam>. Agencies may also obtain a copy by writing to OPM at U.S. Office of Personnel Management, Office of Work/Life Programs, 1900 E St., NW., Washington, DC 20415.

§ 792.204 Are there any special reporting and oversight requirements related to the child care subsidy program law?

Agencies are responsible for tracking the utilization of their funds and reporting the results to OPM. OPM will provide agencies the mandatory reporting form for this purpose. OPM also will produce an annual report for use by the agencies.

§ 792.205 Which agency funds may be used for the purpose of the child care subsidy program?

Agencies are permitted to use appropriated funds, including revolving funds, that are otherwise available to them for salaries and expenses.

§ 792.206 Are agencies required to participate in this program?

Agencies are not required to participate in this program. The decision to participate is left to the discretion of the agency. If an agency chooses to participate, it may not use funds other than those specified in § 792.205.

§ 792.207 When does the child care subsidy program law become effective and how may agencies take advantage of this law?

This authority was made permanent on November 12, 2001. Agencies may now offer child care subsidy programs to their lower income Federal employees to help them reduce their child care costs.